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MESSAGE.

EDMUND HEAD.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL transmits, for the information of both Houses of the Legislature, the following Correspondence on the subject of the arrangements made for the transport of Belgian and United States Mails between Europe and America, by the Canadian Line of Steamships.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Quebec, 5th March, 1860.

HOTEL DE FRANCE,
Brussels, Belgium, 14*th December*, 1859.

MY LORD,

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that the Government of Canada has recently made arrangements with the Government of the United States, for the transmission weekly by the Canadian line of Steamers of the American mails, and these arrangements having received the sanction of the Postmaster General of Great Britain, a regular semi-weekly mail communication is established between Europe and all parts of the American continent. It is hardly necessary to point out to your Lordship the immense advantages offered by this line of communication over every other both in saving of distance, time and mode of conveyance. I am desirous of communicating with the Belgian Postal Authorities on this subject, and I will therefore feel obliged if your Lordship will favour me with an introduction to the proper authorities, that I may confer with them on this subject.

I have the honor to be,
your Lordship's very obedient
and very humble servent.

(Signed) SIDNEY SMITH,
Postmaster General
of Canada.

To LORD HOWARD DE WALDEN,
Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador,
&c., &c., &c.

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HOTEL DE FRANCE,

Brussels, Belgium, 15th December, 1859.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that the Government of Canada have recently entered into arrangements with the United States Government for the transmission weekly by the Canadian Line of Atlantic Steamers of American Mails between Liverpool and Portland and thence by the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada to Detroit and other Western portions of the American Union and *vice versâ.*

These arrangements have received the sanction of the Postmaster General of Great Britain and the service has commenced. The Mails from Europe were despatched from Liverpool by the "Nova Scotian" on the 30th ult. and from Queenstown, near Cork, on the following day. The Mails from Chicago and Western States were brought by special agent to Portland, and by the "Hungarian" to Europe, reaching London within twelve days from the time of their despatch from Chicago.

In the event of a decision being arrived at by you to avail yourself of these advantages, I beg to inform you that the Mails are despatched from London for these Steamers, *viâ* Cork, by the Mail Train which leaves London for Ireland at 9 o'clock on Wednesday evening of each week. They are put on board the Steamer in Queenstown Harbor on the Thursday afternoon, and it will only be necessary that letters from Belgium should reach London on the Wednesday afternoon to ensure their immediate despatch by these Steamers. I may add that two days further Telegraphic News can now be sent by these Steamers calling at Queenstown, for arrangements have been made that telegraphic despatches received at Queenstown up to Thursday afternoon, shall be placed on board the Steamer which left Liverpool on the previous day.

On examination of your Post Office Book of directions, I find that Tuesday is stated as the day fixed for despatching Mails sent by the Canadian Line of Steamers, and that only letters for Canada are thus forwarded. I would therefore respectfully suggest the propriety of a change in this respect in your Book of Directions, namely, that Mails are sent for the *United States* as well as for Canada, and on the *Wednesday* instead of the Tuesday,---and further, that the service is weekly instead of fortnightly as stated therein. To this I would beg to add that public notice thereof should be given. The immense importance to a commercial community of a speedy and regular communication with its foreign correspondents can hardly be over estimated, and so clearly did it appear to the United States Postal Authorities that the Mails to and from the Western, North Western and South Western States, if transmitted by this line of communication by Steamer and Railway, would be greatly expedited as compared with the routes of transmission through the Ports of New-York or Boston, that they readily availed themselves of this service. This fact should afford to you the strongest possible assurance that you may safely avail yourself of the present opportunity for forwarding your Mails between Belgium and America,---and I shall feel great satisfaction in learning that

you will adopt the arrangement and take advantage of the facilities now offered.

Permit me also to state that the French Government has already applied to the British Postal Authorities for permission to forward Mails by this line. The postage charge for correspondence has been fixed at the same rate as by the other (British) line of Steamers leaving Liverpool on Saturdays. May I request that the answer to this letter be addressed to me at "*Morley's Hotel*," Trafalgar Square, London.

I have the honor, &c., &c.,

(Signed) SIDNEY SMITH,
Postmaster General of Canada.

To M. Masui,
Directeur Général des Postes,
Brussels, Belgium.

Hotel de France,
Brussels, 2nd January, 1860.

Sir,

I have now the honor to inform you that, since I visited Brussels, I have made a proposition to Mr. Stourm, Director General of Posts of France, to convey French closed Mails between Europe and America by the Canadian Line of Ocean Mail Steamships, and that this proposition has been accepted by him.

I take the liberty of enclosing an extract of the communication received from M. Stourm in answer to my proposition. Following the previous arrangement made with the United States Government, it should afford sufficient evidence to you of the Superior advantages now offered for your acceptance, and induce you to accept the proposition contained in my communication of the 14th December last.

I intend to sail for America by the Steamer of the 10th instant, and I trust I will not be considered importunate in asking for a reply before that time.

have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient and very
humble servant,

(Signed) SIDNEY SMITH,
Postmaster General of Canada.

To M. Masui,
Director General of Posts,
&c., &c., &c.
Brussels.

Extract from communication of M. Stourm.

" I shall, with the least possible delay, address the Post Office of the " United States proposing to put the Portland, Detroit and Chicago Offices " in direct correspondence with France, but in the meanwhile, relying upon " the assurance that you have given me of the concurrence of United States " Post Office, I shall hasten, so soon as I receive the reply of the British " Post Office (which I have every reason to think will be favorable) to despatch by the Canadian Packets, Mails for the Offices of Boston, New " York and Philadelphia, those being the only United States Offices with " which the French Offices are as yet authorized to correspond.

" Until the Portland, Detroit and Chicago Offices shall have been " authorized to correspond with my Office, the Mails sent by the Canadian " Steamships would be addressed and forwarded like those sent by the " Liverpool Line to Boston."

[*Translation.*]

MINISTÈRE DES TRAVAUX PUBLICS,

Administration des Chemins de Fer, Postes et Télégraphes,

Brussels, 4th January, 1860.

SIR,

I have given my attention to the matters of information contained in the letter which, on the 15th ult., you did me the honor to address to me on the subject of the Canadian Line of Atlantic Steamers.

On the receipt of this letter, I lost no time in issuing instruction that correspondence from Belgium addressed to Canada should henceforth be forwarded on Queenstown, and be included in the despatch of Wednesday evening.

To fully meet the views of the Canadian Office, it remained necessary to seek from the British Postal Department authority to forward, in like manner, on Queenstown Belgic letters for the United States. A proposition to this end has been submitted to London.

If, as I have every reason to believe, this proposition will be favorably received, I will see, Sir, that prompt action thereon shall be taken in the manner you have been so good as to point out.

Be so good, Sir, as to accept,
&c., &c., &c.

Le Directeur Délégué.

To Mr. SIDNEY SMITH,
Postmaster General of Canada,
Brussels.

General Post Office,

London, 11th January, 1860.

Sir,

I have laid before the Postmaster General your letter of the 6th instant, and in reply, I am directed to inform you that no communication has been received by His Lordship from the Belgian Post Office, intimating a desire to send closed Mails through this Country to the United States.

Hitherto all the American correspondence from Belgium has been sent to London, as ordinary transit correspondence, and has been forwarded to its destination in the British Mails.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed,) F. HILL.

The Honorable Sidney Smith,

&c., &c., &c.,

Morley's Hotel.

Morley's Hotel,

London, 21st January, 1860.

Sir,

I have recently received information that a convention has been entered into between the Belgian Ministers at Washington, and the Postmaster General of the United States, for the transmission of closed Mails between America and Belgium *vid* England. I therefore take the liberty of informing you that arrangements have been entered into between the Post Office Authorities of France, Great Britain and myself, for sending French closed Mails by the Canadian Ocean Steamers, and that the service commence by the Ship which sails from Liverpool to-morrow, and from Cork on Thursday, and that in case you are disposed to forward closed Mails for America by these Steamers, I am prepared to carry them upon the same terms as have been agreed upon respecting the French closed Mails.

I leave for America to day, but any arrangements you make enter into with the Postal Authorities here on the subject will receive my sanction.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,

SIDNEY SMITH,
Postmaster General of Canada.

M. Masui,
Directeur Général des Postes.
&c., &c., &c.

3rd Session, 6th Parliament, 23 Victoria, 1860.

MESSAGE.

On the subject of the arrangements for the transport of Belgian and United States Mails between Europe and America by the Canadian Line of Steamships.

Presented to both Houses of the Legislature, Monday 5th March, 1860.

S. Derbishire & G. Desbarats, Queen's Printer.